



California State Fire Marshal CODE INTERPRETATION

Date Issued	04-21-2000	Interpretation	00-003
Topic	Exiting from R, Division 2 Occupancies housing non-ambulatory clients.		
Code Section(s)	1007.6.3.2.2, California Building Code (1998)		
Requested by	Mary Miller, Fire Marshal Modesto Fire Department 1010 Tenth Street Modesto, CA 95353		

- 1. Can a person exit through two intervening rooms in a Group R, Division 2 Occupancy housing six or less non-ambulatory clients?***

One of the two required exits can be through a hallway and then to another bedroom that has an exit directly to the outside. Furthermore, the code also allows the exit to be through an adjacent room (such as a bathroom) and then through a bedroom with direct exit to the outside.
- 2. Is it the intent of the code to allow both of the required exits to be through intervening rooms?***

No. the preferred means of exiting from the bedrooms housing non-ambulatory clients should be directly to the exterior. However, when this is not practical, the exiting may be through an intervening room.
- 3. Is the hallway considered an intervening room?***

The hallway would not be considered an intervening room in this specific case.
- 4. Can section 1004.2.2 be ignored because section 1007.6.3.2.2 is more specific?***

Section 1007.6.3.2.2 is the only section applicable for this issue.
- 5. Can we apply these requirements to ambulatory facilities?***

No. In ambulatory facilities housing six or fewer clients, exiting is required as per a Group R Division 3 Occupancy.

6. *Is there a provision for door width for a non-ambulatory client in a wheel chair so they can move freely about a care home?*

It appears that everything we find references occupant loads of 10 or more. The code appears to be silent in this regard as it speaks to door widths of rooms housing 10 or more. The intent of the code is to allow the clients to move about freely. Consequently, the doors from the rooms housing non-ambulatory clients must be adequate to accommodate the width of the wheelchair. Since there is no standard size of wheelchair, the door width will have to depend on the particular client housed in the room.

7. *Is there a provision for door width for ambulatory clients?*

There is not specific code reference for this issue. The requirements would be those that are applicable to a Group R, Division 3 Occupancy.